4/22/71

Dear Js,

Not all the news is depressing, so I begin with what is. My stupid publishers, despite my contrary demand, have gone back to press with almost half the dust-jacket blank. The PW review, as I pointed out, could fit on the inside back play, in facsimile, and much more, including excerpts from Cook's, could be on the back cover, which is one of the better and almost-free places to advertise a book. They have never told me anything, including the size of the first print. It was supposed to have been 10,000, but only 5,000, I under stand, were printed. Considering that most books do not sell 5,000, and that they did nothing promotional at all, this is, in itself, a not inconsiderable tribute, especially with a $10, book, to the subject and my reputation.

Another depressing things is not having heard from Harv Morgan, Jim Eason or Owen Spann, all of whom I've phoned (spoke to Spann's producer) without return of the call. I also wrote Jim, whose silence is really a big surprise, considering the relationship we once had and my recollection of the kind of guy he was, meaning the kind who I'd not expect to change with success.

Several weeks ago I got a one-sentence letter from Orest Pena, who Garrison, Lane, etc., had turned off on me when he was a good friend and very productive. He was turned off, as I immediately detected and he has just confirmed, by their attitude toward me and the thing they fried to do to me and my relationshop with him. They tried to cut in, cut me out. This letter of 4/9 reads, in full:"I am going to New York next week; will call you." I didn't get it until the 13th or 14th, so I could not write him to give him the few occasions of which I knew I'd have to be away, and I feared he'd call when I was. But he didn't. His tax matters delayed him until yesterday. He phoned me from New York last night to ask me to go there. If I can arrange it I will. If not I'll write him tonight to ask that he overcome his dislike for landing in planes to stop over in Baltimore and meet with me there or come here for overnight. A trip to NYV now costs close to $100, at least $75, with no staying there, and that I do not have.

I would ordinarily send this to Paul, but with the interusions into my mail recently reported in greater than usual number, I am hesitant to. Perhaps you would not mind remailing this to him, on the chance that if his is covered, a letter of local origin, perhaps without return address, may excite less interest.

The connection was very bad, so my effort to tape, which I've not had time to audition, I presume is poor and in key places worthless. The level of his voice alone is enough to persuade on this, and when to that I ad the very thick accent, I am not optimistic. However, I recall much of it.

Aside from other acts of friendship, he had led me to much worthwhile information, on Bringuier, on t e Bringuier-Oswald relationship and its dating, on Bringuier himself, on the appearances of an Oswald, one some of his associates, on the real story of the "drunk" at his place, etc. He had also let me know quote clearly that he had not told me all he knew. Whether this was because of misgivings about Garrison, which I knew he had, or whether he wanted me first to prove myself more or to see how I would develop what I did get from him, I do not know. He also knew Ferrie, and I have reason to believe better and longe than he did tell me. Ferrie used to bring his boys to O's place, and despite the risk, con O into serving them when they were too young. He knew several of Jim's investiga ors well from their days on the beat, but never told them anything. One is Louis Ivon, who walked that beat for some years. I suppose I should have taken a chance and asked him to have the operator place the call again, but knowing him, K also knew this could have led him to say, "You come here, then we talk", and that I also

feared. He is or can be mercurial.

Meanwhile, as an act of friendship, so he could protect himself at least with knowledge, and because I knew he had been under both local and several federal pressures, I kept sending him everything I found or him or got from another, like Paul. There came a time when he wrote me that if I'd go down there he'd give me another book. I replied that it was beyond my means, much as I'd like to. Last night I had to tell him I just didn't have the money to go to New York, which is true.

However, during the course of the conversation, the general outlines of some of what he has held back emerged. And he was quite explicit in telling me that he understood Garrison didn't want me in N.O. This is the kind of thing he could have picked up from dependable sources, those who could know. It could also have been made explicit to him by those who sent to cut me out. I know Orets threw Mark out bodily, I know Boxely was there, and I know they sent Loran Hall, of all people! There was what could be taken as an inference that it would not be good for me to go there, but this, if I had the means, would not discourage me. Unfortunately, I do not now have the pad I had then.

He says he knows all about where Oswald worked, with whom he associated, knows about him and the musician, saw him often with deBrueys (who he knew well), and made several references to the complications inEvaristo's life(that is, he has two cousins who work for the government, read CIA) which restrain Ewvie (who is not now working for O but wants to again). At several points he said, and properly, "let's not talk about that bytphone".

Now I do not for a minute think he meant he knew the people who worked with Oswald at Reily's. Nor have I ever thought that the real Oswald was the guy who staged that fake "drunk". I have no doubt it was the real Oswald at Bringuier's, and it was earlier than B swore, much earlier (destroying B's alibi), of which I have redundant and irrefutable proof of documentary nature. Ruperto, by the way, has returned to N.O, and does work for O again. He is unwell now.

When he made an unclear reference to O with a musician and a night club, I thought of two things, one enclosed and one I may never have told you but did tell Paul. Bean Andrews is quite a horn blower. In 11/67 he invited me to spend an evening, meaning all Saturday night, at a jam session he was having with some cats come down from Cincinnati for that session. In retrospect, I regret I didn't. I do not know what planned work mitigated against this. It was not fear. Dean and I struck it off well from the first. I think his life is now to complicated to even pick this up again. What I got from him and O good very well on major points, like Mexican. And I did get several confirming reports that Dean had taken O out for music binges (which De denied). One of these was Thornley's friend Clint Bolton....It also happened that in some cases, when O led me to witnesses, they disappeared, including changing jobs and residences overnight. One of these could have led to a KT link. Paul will understand the possible significance of some of this in the context of fairly recent communications and discoveries and in the absence of some of deB's reports in the WC files, at least as coming from DJ. Especially is he is right on our recent semantics dealing with "prospective", as not "provisional".

I will, of course, when I can find time and total quiet, use the earphone and go over what I have on tape. I will try and promote the trip to NYC when I goto DC in a couple of hours (as usual, it is pretty early). And I will try to induce O to either meet me in Baltimore of come here for a night. There are nonstops from NY to Balt and from Balt to N.O.I'll check schedules today before writing him. The tragedy is that if had been delayed four days more I'd have been in NYC. He leaves two days before the earliest I can get there and four days before the latest I can.

All of this fits with several other things. One is the point at which Sciambra broke off relationship entirely, when he had just agreed to get something for me, the NOPD Intelligence Unit pre-assassination files on both LHO and Ferrie. They had believed there were none simple because their own connections told them there were none. I produced the proof there were. These could have rekindled Garrison's incompetent interest. O was quite articulate on G's incompetence, ambition, and octopus-like attitude toward himself, which did surprise me, for I'd not disclosed any of it ti him. The last time we had met was when he was really up tight, and I had then told him what he now recalls, that he did not undertand my relationship with G. There have been other recent indications of G's renewed interest, one being a recent effort to locate Roger Craig through Genn, who didn't know where Roger was (he has been hurt again, this time severely). Roger in anything is way out now. I should also note that it also firs with a recent effort I have made to stimulate interest in AGENT OSWALD, and that lower-level interest is encouraging. But I can't have an answer for about a week. The decision-maker will be unavailable through the end of this week. It also closely enough coincides with tips I got several months ago from an eminently-undependable source who, despite this, was one of my most fruitful because I was able to pretty accurately decide what was crap, for the rest led me to much very solid and quite new significant data I will be using. This strange person, who recently did even stranger things that I had know of, had two tips, or reported them, of JG's renewed interest in what there is called his "probe". And, has, under what at best are strange conditions, has left his jurisdiction into one of the tightest areas of the most backward part of the state and has taken up with a flic there, betokening a kind of protection, without extreme interpretation. In Perezland.

I don't know whether I'll be able to make either of the possible arrangements. But I did want Paul to know of these developments and perhaps they may suggest things to him, including what I have not yet had time to think about. I would suggest that, for whatever it may or may not be worth, he keep in mind what I have, over the years, told him of O'Sullivan, his relationship with Ferrie, Oswald and Geraci, and the fact that his employment would naturally take him to my friend's establishment. There was neither reference to him nor indication of any contact. I merely suggest that his work takes him into that area and that kind of place very often.

Oh, yes, the lawyer O used when he was fighting with the Bureau and dB, Tamborelli, as I remember the name, the lawyer to whom he gave all the names of all the agents that harrassed him, now works for Jim. Rather strange, and not indicative of a good practise. Bjt interesting that Jim would want a man who had not made in after all these years in private practise. Even if he had then just been out of school, that was more than eight years ago, enough time for a young lawyer to make a stmtif he is going to. One other irrelevancy that may be of interest: the lawyer O later had, during the "probe", was a traffic-court judge, Mac Hauer. You may recall the scandal of his retirement after his defeat, the crude attempt to get him retired for disability after he lost the election. When O was dealing with me, MacH called him in and showed him the Bureau file on Jim, which was counter-productivem being what really turned O on for me. But if true, as I believe it was, then it is indicative of the possibility that O does have knowledge. And on concern (aside from his imaginativeness in the wrong directions) is his vulnerability from the kind of business he is in and the kind of patrons he has. He could be hurt with little difficulty and easily-stimulated naturalness. With him this could also be easily arranged as a crime of passion, were he to be hurt. Down there, it could lead to nothing. Layton Martens almost gutted a man, with a butcher knife, and even JG dropped the case after the police made the arrest and file the charge of attempted murder, which it was....Must now prepare to go to DC. Best,